

DELL
WESTERN COMICS

NO. 484 10¢

the

RANGE RIDER

comics



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The Stagecoach

THE LONGEST AND MOST FAMOUS OF THE EARLY DAY STAGE LINES WAS THE JOHN BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL WHICH WAS STARTED IN THE 1850'S. IT EXTENDED FROM ST. LOUIS AND MEMPHIS IN THE EAST, TO SAN FRANCISCO IN THE WEST. IT PASSED THROUGH THREE THOUSAND MILES OF PRAIRIE, PLAINS, RUGGED MOUNTAINS AND DESOLATE DESERT COUNTRY. THE TRIP TOOK TWENTY-FIVE DAYS OF CONSTANT DAY AND

NIGHT TRAVEL, WITH STOPS EVERY TEN OR TWENTY MILES TO CHANGE HORSES. WHEN FULLY LOADED, THE COACHES COULD CARRY NINE PASSENGERS, IN ADDITION TO THE MAIL SACKS. ONLY FORTY POUNDS OF PERSONAL LUGGAGE WAS ALLOWED EACH PASSENGER. THE MAIL SACKS WERE CARRIED ON THE BACK OF THE COACH IN A LEATHER "BOOT." INDIAN ATTACKS WERE A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE. LARGE CARGOES OF GOLD WERE OFTEN CARRIED FROM THE CALIFORNIA "DIGGINGS" AND GUN-GUARDS RODE THE COACHES TO PROTECT THEM FROM BANDITS. THE STAGE LINE WAS DISCONTINUED WHEN THE RAILROAD FINALLY CONNECTED THE EAST AND WEST.

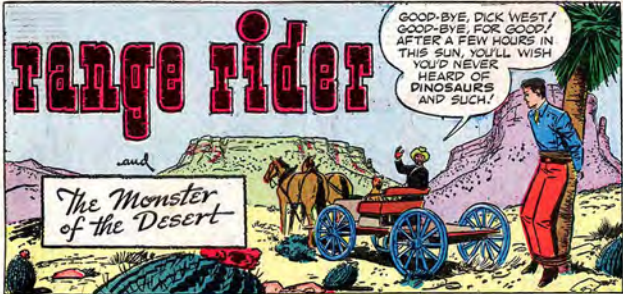


Range Rider

GOOD-BYE, DICK WEST!
GOOD-BYE, FOR GOOD!
AFTER A FEW HOURS IN
THIS SUN, YOU'LL WISH
YOU'D NEVER
HEARD OF
DINOSAURS
AND SUCH!

and

The Monster
of the Desert

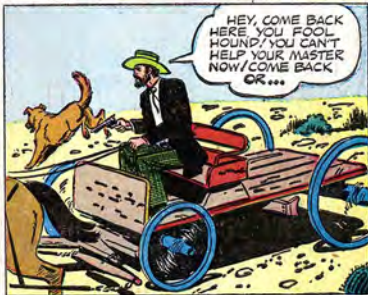


BUT, UNCLE JED, YOU CAN'T
LEAVE ME OUT HERE TO DIE!
I HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING TO YOU!

GIDDAP!



HEY, COME BACK
HERE, YOU FOOL
HOUND! YOU CAN'T
HELP YOUR MASTER
NOW! COME BACK
OR...



YII-YIPE!



POOR SAGE, HE
ALMOST NICKED
YOUR PAW! YOU
SHOULD'VE
STAYED ON
TH' WAGON! AT
LEAST, YOU'D
HAVE A CHANCE
TO LIVE!
BUT NOW...!



MEANWHILE, IN THE TOWN OF EAGLE PASS...





IS THIS ONE OF THE INDIAN ARROWS?

THAT'S RIGHT! THE NAVAJOS JUMPED US NEAR VERDI OASIS! SHERIFF, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



ROUST TH' BOYS OUT OF TH' SALOON! I'M FORMIN' A POSSE AN' WE'RE HEADIN' FOR VERDI OASIS!



SINCE YOU'RE DICK WEST'S FRIEND, I RECKON YOU'LL JOIN MY POSSE, EH, RANGE RIDER?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, SHERIFF, I'D LIKE TO SEARCH FOR DICK IN MY OWN WAY! I'LL JOIN YOU, LATER!



FUNNY... JED PERDUE SAID NAVAJOS ATTACKED HIM... YET THIS IS A HOPI ARROW! THERE'S A COYOTE IN THE CANEBREAK SOMEWHERE!



HI, BOSS! I HEAR INDIANS KIDNAPPED TH' KID!

DON'T BE STUPID, TEX! I JUST FIXED IT SO THE INDIANS GET BLAMED WHEN DICK'S BODY IS FINALLY FOUND!



HUH? I DON'T SAVVY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO! JUST REMEMBER THAT I WANT THAT RANCH MY SKINFLEET SISTER, MATHILDA, LEFT TO DICK... AND I DON'T CARE HOW I GET IT!

MATHILDA CUT ME OFF IN HER BLASTED WILL! BUT NOW, AS DICK'S NEWLY APPOINTED GUARDIAN, I INHERIT THE SPREAD IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM!



THERE'S TALK AROUND TOWN YOU AIN'T AS INTERESTED IN TH' BOX-M COWS AS YOU ARE IN OTHER CRITTERS SUCH AS DINOSAURS AN...

SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! SOMEBODY'S COMING!



HEY, BOSS, THERE'S A COWPOKE DOWNSTAIRS WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE RANGE RIDER! I HEARD HIM TELL TH' SHERIFF HE'S GOIN' LOOKIN' FOR TH' KID BY HIMSELF!

RANGE RIDER?



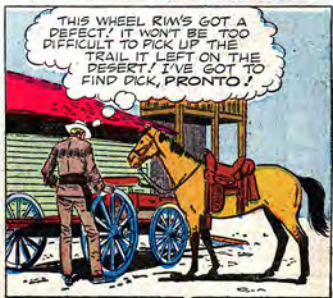
AH, I REMEMBER NOW... DICK'S BEST FRIEND/DICK TOLD ME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO... WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO CLAIM THE RANCH... THAT THE RANGE RIDER WOULD COME SOON!

WELL, WHOEVER HE IS... I SEEN HIM POKIN' AROUND YOUR BUCKBOARD AFTER I PARKED IT IN TH' ALLEY!



I WONDER IF HE SUSPECTS I SENT THE SHERIFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

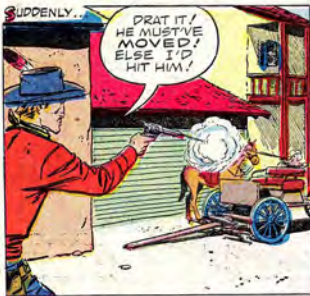
WHY TAKE CHANCES, JED? LET ME HANDLE THIS HOMBRE MY WAY!



THIS WHEEL RIM'S GOT A DEFECT! IT WON'T BE TOO DIFFICULT TO PICK UP THE TRAIL IT LEFT ON THE DESERT! I'VE GOT TO FIND DICK, PRONTO!

SUDDENLY...

DRAT IT!
HE MUST'VE
MOVED!
ELSE I'D
HIT HIM!



OKAY, DRYGULCHER,
COME HERE WITH
YOUR HANDS UP!

YEOWWWW!



JED'LL SKIN ME
ALIVE FOR BUNGLIN'
THAT! I CAN'T LET
HIM CATCH ME!



SEEMS LIKE I SAW
THAT BUSHWHACKER
TIE HIS HORSE
IN THE NEXT
ALLEY AS I
RODE INTO
TOWN!



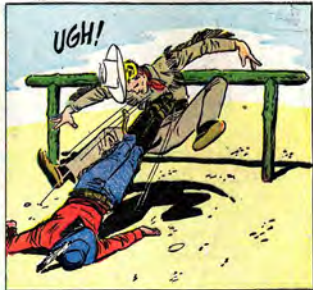
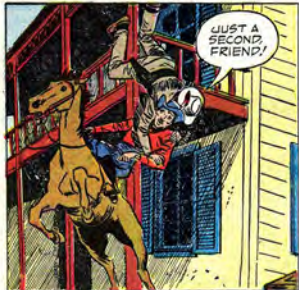
HEY, WHO'S
THAT, RUFÉ?

SEARCH
ME, JED!



I WAS RIGHT!
THERE HE IS!





LATER...

PERDUE'S BUCKBOARD TRACKS ARE PLENTY PLAIN, RAWHIDE... LIKewise, IT'S PLAIN THEY AREN'T COMING FROM VERDI OASIS!



WHILE NEARBY...

THAT RANGE RIDER FELLOW IS A SLICK CUSTOMER! IF I DON'T STOP HIM NOW, HE'S BOUND TO FIND DICK!



I THOUGHT PERDUE... OR ONE OF HIS MEN... WOULD FOLLOW ME! THIS PROVES I'M ON DICK'S TRAIL!



THAT LOOKS LIKE PERDUE, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE AT THIS DISTANCE!... AH, I THINK I CREASED HIM GOOD!



GIDDAP, HORSE! THE RANGE RIDER NICKED MY WRIST! I'M NO MATCH FOR HIM UNLESS I'VE GOT HELP! I WAS A FOOL TO TRAIL HIM ALONE!



I GUESS THAT DISCOURAGED HIM, RAWHIDE! BUT THE QUESTION IS, SHOULD I... HEY, WHAT'S THAT?



WOOF!

A DOG! POOR THING
LOOKS HALF-DEAD
FROM THIRST! HERE,
BOY, I'VE GOT
WATER!



HE ACTS LIKE HE WANTS
ME TO FOLLOW HIM! HMM,
I WONDER...!



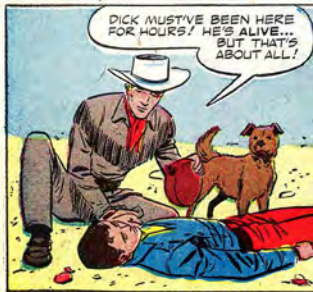
GREAT
GUNS...!

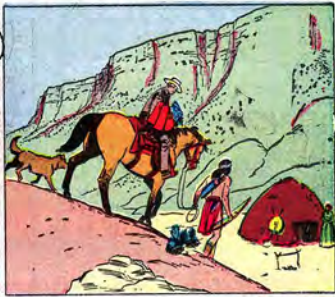
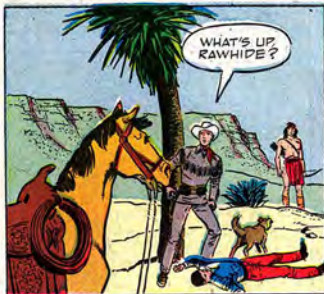


IT'S DICK WEST...
AND HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!



DICK MUST'VE BEEN HERE
FOR HOURS! HE'S ALIVE...
BUT THAT'S
ABOUT ALL!







BOON...

YOU KNOW, RAWHIDE,
I CAN SAVVY WHY
INDIANS HAVE STRANGE
FEARS AND BELIEFS
ABOUT ANCIENT
MONSTERS...



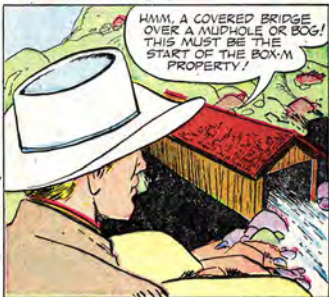
BUT WHY WAS DICK MUMBLING
ABOUT DINOSAURS, GIANT LIZARDS
AND SUCH IN HIS DELIRIUM?



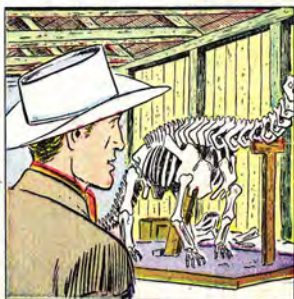
AND WHAT BEARING
HAS ALL THIS ON DICK'S
UNCLE TRYING TO KILL
HIM? OH, OH
WHAT'S THAT?



HMM, A COVERED BRIDGE
OVER A MUDHOLE OR BOG!
THIS MUST BE THE
START OF THE BOX-M
PROPERTY!



JUMPIN'
ALLIGATORS! NOW
I'M SEEING THINGS!
RAWHIDE, EASY BOY!
EASY!





NO WONDER YOU'RE SCARED RAWHIDE! THESE ARE SKELETONS OF PREHISTORIC MONSTERS! BUT HOW IN THUNDER DID THEY GET IN HERE!



GREETINGS, FRIEND! I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSEMBLING THESE FOSSILS, SIR! PROFESSOR HORNBOONE, PALEONTOLOGIST EXTRAORDINARY... AT YOUR SERVICE!

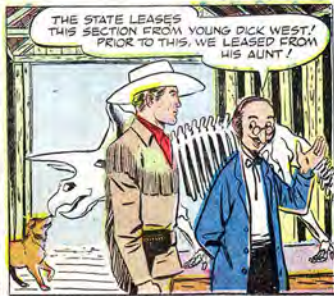


A PALEO... WHAT?

LET US JUST SAY I EXCAVATE AND RESTORE FOSSILIZED BONES FROM THE TAR PITS BELOW! I WORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STATE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE!



THIS, SIR, IS GENEVIEVE, A THEROPOD DINOSAUR OF THE JURASSIC PERIOD. SHE IS OF THE TYRANNOSAURUS REX FAMILY... BUT I THINK OF HER AS PART OF... ER... MY FAMILY!



THE STATE LEASES THIS SECTION FROM YOUNG DICK WEST! PRIOR TO THIS, WE LEASED FROM HIS AUNT!





WE'LL
MAKE A STAND IN THE
COVERED BRIDGE!

BUT MY
SPECIMENS?
WHAT OF POOR
GENEVIEVE...
AND HER
CLAVICLE?



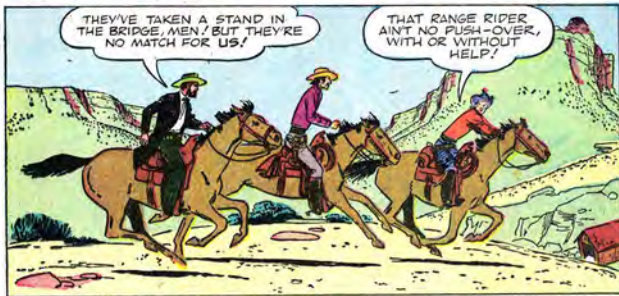
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
GENEVIEVE, PROFESSOR!
SHE'S BEEN DEAD FOR
MILLIONS OF YEARS!

AND WE'LL BE
DEAD, IF WE
DON'T DIG IN
PRONTO! HERE
THEY COME!



THEY'VE TAKEN A STAND IN
THE BRIDGE, MEN! BUT THEY'RE
NO MATCH FOR US!

THAT RANGE RIDER
AIN'T NO PUSH-OVER,
WITH OR WITHOUT
HELP!



HOLY COW,
WHAT KIND OF
A MENAGERIE
IS THIS?

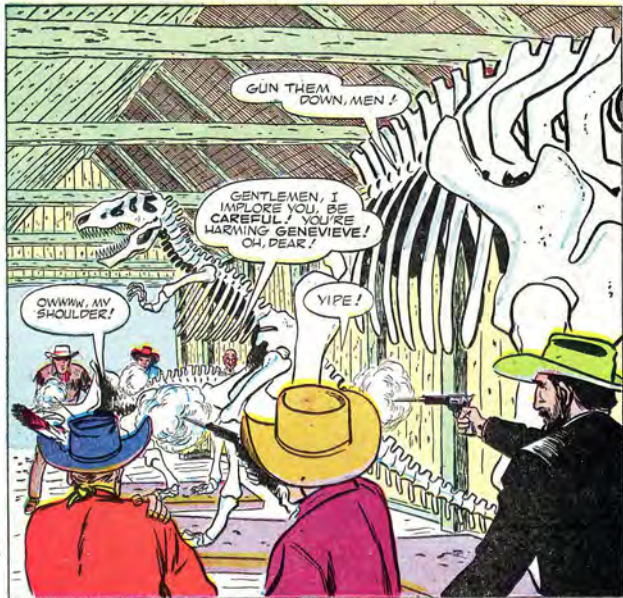
AW, IT'S
ONLY OLD
BONES WIRED
TOGETHER
AND...

SHUT UP!
THEY'RE
HIDING!
KEEP
YOUR EYES
PEELED!



PSST! DICK...
NOW!





GUN THEM DOWN, MEN!

GENTLEMEN, I IMPLORE YOU, BE CAREFUL! YOU'RE HARMING GENEVIEVE! OH, DEAR!

OWWWW, MY SHOULDER!

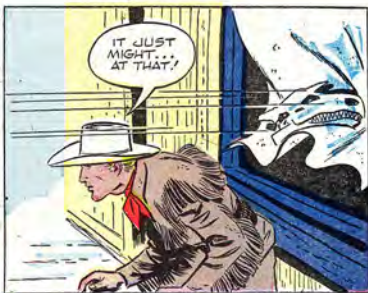
YIPE!



BLAST YOUR HIDE, RANGE RIDER... ...YEOOW!



STAY WHERE YOU ARE, SIDEWINDERS! AND DROP YOUR GUNS... FAST!





SAGE, STOP IT... LEAVE HIM ALONE!



DON'T! THE TAR PITS...!



GEE, I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE!

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN, DICK! HE MADE A BREAK FOR IT AND LANDED IN THE TAR PITS! THEY'VE TRAPPED BIGGER GAME THAN HE!



LATER...

GOOD-BYE, PROFESSOR! TH' SHERIFF BOUGHT MY RANCH WITH TH' UNDERSTANDIN' YOU MAY CONTINUE EXCAVATIN' FOR FOSSILS!

I HOPE YOU AND RANGE RIDER HAVE MANY HAPPY ADVENTURES TOGETHER, DICK! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!



YOU KNOW, GENEVIEVE'S ALL ASSEMBLED AGAIN... ..ALL EXCEPT ONE SMALL BONE I CAN'T SEEM TO LOCATE!

I RECKON YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK VERY FAR FOR IT, PROFESSOR!



EGAD, SAGE HAS GOT IT! NO, NO, NO, DON'T BURY IT, SAGE! YIPE...!

POOR SAGE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S GOT THE RIPEST BONE IN CAPTIVITY! HA, HA!

DIG FAST, SAGE! YIPPEE!

RANGE RIDER

and
THE KILLER of RIO HONDO

ONE AFTERNOON NEAR EL MUERTO SPRINGS, TEXAS, THE RANGE RIDER AND HIS YOUNG PAL, DICK WEST, SUDDENLY REIN UP...

GOSH, RANGE RIDER! THAT MUST BE SOME CAMPFIRE TO CAUSE ALL THAT SMOKE!

THAT'S NO CAMPFIRE, DICK... THAT'S A BIG BLAZE! JINGLE YOUR SPURS AND LET'S TAKE A LOOKSEE!

IT'S A WAGON!
BUT THERE'S
NO TEAM!

THE TEAM PROBABLY
BROKE LOOSE IN
PANIC! LUCKY THE
RIG'S IN THOSE ROCKS,
OR THE WHOLE
PRARIE WOULD BE
ABLAZE!

LOOK! THERE
IN THE SMOKE!
ISN'T THAT
A MAN?

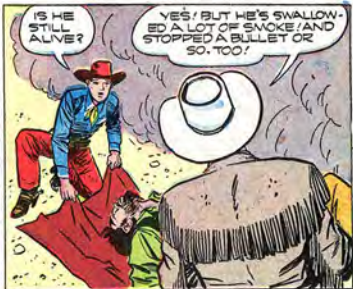
IT SURE IS,
DICK! AND HE'S
BADLY HURT
FROM THE
LOOKS OF
HIM!

QUICK, DICK! BRING
YOUR CANTEEN AND
A BLANKET!

STIFFENING, THE BREEZE SUDDENLY CHANGES...

RANGE RIDER!
LOOK OUT!

I'LL BE ALL
RIGHT!



IS HE STILL ALIVE?

YES! BUT HE'S SWALLOWED A LOT OF SMOKE! AND STOPPED A BULLET OR SO, TOO!



I'LL GET SOMETHING TO BANDAGE ...

NO USE ... MISTER, I'M CASHIN' IN! ...



NONSENSE! WE'LL GET YOU FIXED UP AND ...

PLEASE! LET ME TALK! NOT MUCH TIME!



NAME'S CHARLEY PURVIS... HAD MORE'N A THOUSAND IN GOLD ABOARD... DON'T KNOW HOW... HE FOUND OUT... BUT ALWAYS DOES... ALWAYS KILLS, TOO... SO THERE'S NO WITNESSES!



TELL ME HIS NAME, PURVIS!

EL ASESINO... PLENTY BAD MEDIC!... OOOOOOH...!



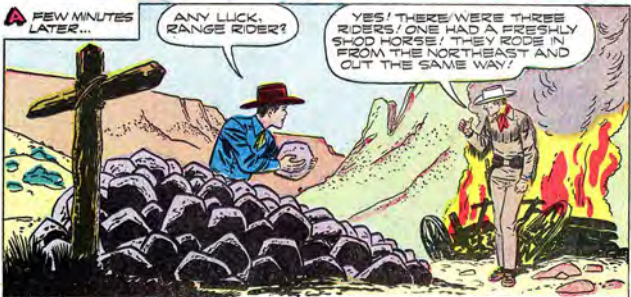
EL ASESINO, HMM... SPANISH FOR THE KILLER! NEVER HEARD OF HIM, RANGE RIDER?

NO! BUT APPARENTLY HE'S WELL-NAMED! PURVIS IS DEAD!



WHAT DO WE DO NOW? TAKE HIM TO THE NEAREST TOWN AND...

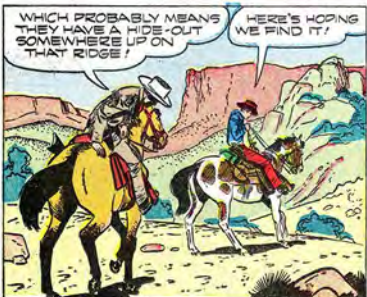
NO, WE'LL BURY HIM HERE! IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO TRY TO PICK UP EL ASESINO'S TRAIL!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ANY LUCK, RANGE RIDER?

YES! THERE WERE THREE RIDERS! ONE HAD A FRESHLY SHOD HORSE! THEY RODE IN FROM THE NORTHEAST AND OUT THE SAME WAY!



WHICH PROBABLY MEANS THEY HAVE A HIDE-OUT SOMEWHERE UP ON THAT RIDGE!

HERE'S HOPING WE FIND IT!



DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT A HUNCH THE KILLER WILL SEE TO THAT WHEN HE SEES US HEADING THIS WAY!

HUH? OH, I SAWVY!
YOU MEAN HE'LL START
THROWING LEAD!

RIGHT! WE'RE GETTING
CLOSE! KEEP YOUR EYES
OPEN AND BE READY
TO DUCK!



SUDDENLY A SHOT PUTS A PERIOD
TO THE RANGE RIDER'S WORDS...

KEEP LOW IN YOUR SADDLE AND
HEAD FOR THOSE ROCKS! HURRY!



WE'LL NEVER
BLAST THEM
OUT OF THERE!

I RECKON YOU'RE
RIGHT, DICK! BUT
MAYBE WE CAN SMOKE
THEM OUT BY FIRING
THAT BRUSH UP
BEHIND THEM!



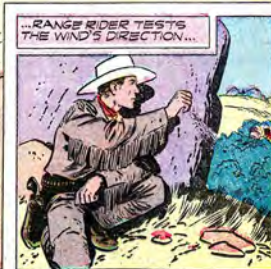
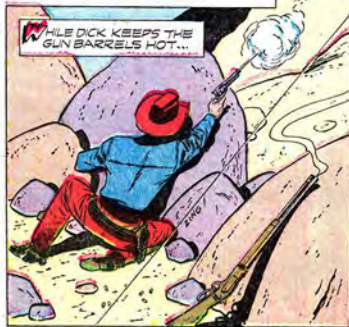
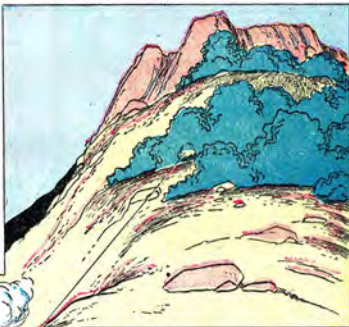
WITH WHAT?
FLAMING ARROWS?
OR PLAIN HOT
LEAD?

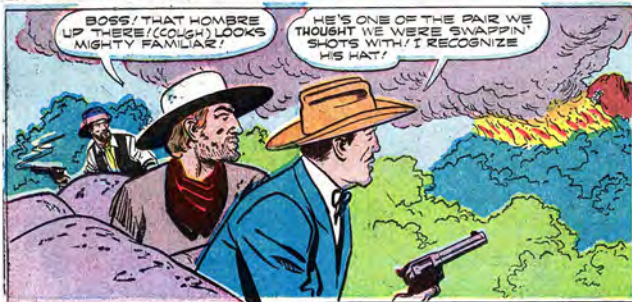
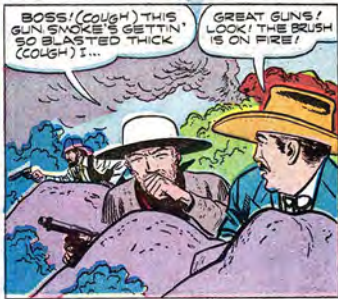
NEITHER! I'LL
ORCLE AROUND,
CUT UP
THROUGH THE
ROCKS, AND SET
IT AFIRE MYSELF!





WITH INDIAN STEALTH, THE RANGE RIDER MAKE HIS WAY UP THROUGH THE ROCKS...





BESIDES, I'VE GOT AN IDEA
HOW WE CAN GET AWAY
WITHOUT BEIN' SINGED
BY FIRE OR BULLETS!



COME ON, BRAZOS!
DODD, YOU GET THE
HORSES! AN' STOW
PURVIS' CASH IN
THE SADDLEBAGS!

OKAY! BUT
HURRY! THAT
FIRE'S GETTIN'
MIGHTY CLOSE!



WHAT ARE
YOU GONNA
DO WITH THAT
DYNAMITE?

FIRST, WE'LL
TIE TWO STICKS
TOGETHER, AN
ATTACH A
LONG FUSE!
THEN...

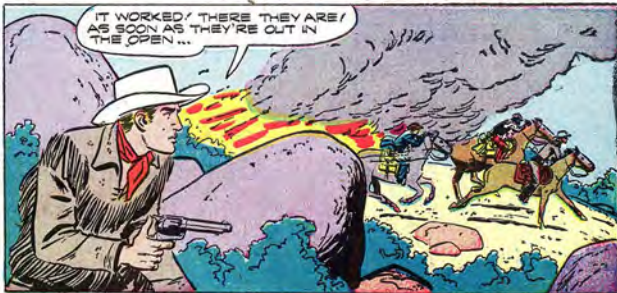


FIVE MINUTES LATER...

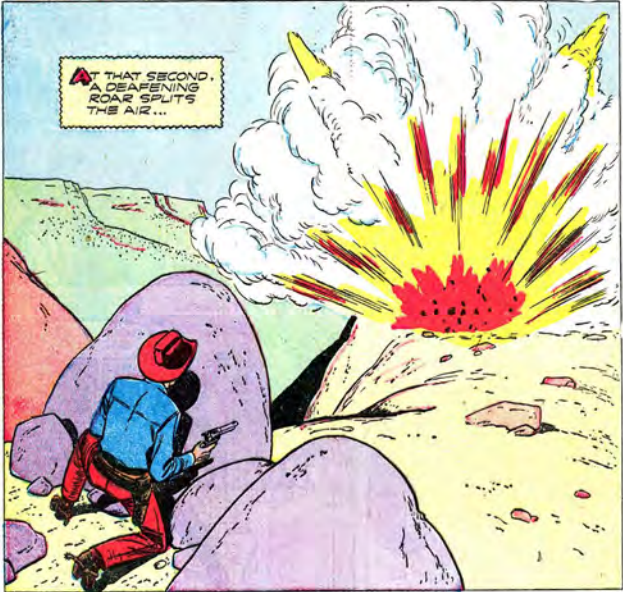
OKAY, BOYS!
MOVE!



IT WORKED! THERE THEY ARE!
AS SOON AS THEY'RE OUT IN
THE OPEN...



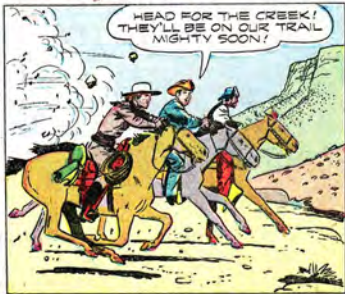
A AT THAT SECOND,
A DEAFENING
ROAR SPLITS
THE AIR...

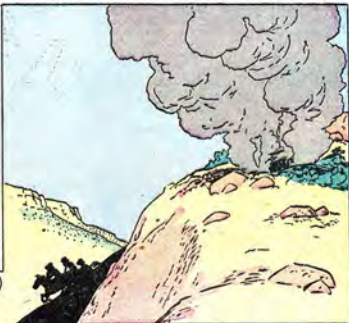


AND IN THE FURY OF THE BLAST...



HEAD FOR THE CREEK!
THEY'LL BE ON OUR TRAIL
MIGHTY SOON!







AT TOP SPEED, THE GUNMEN RACE INTO RIO HONDO...

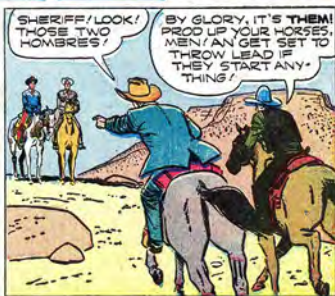


AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...





A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE POSSE THUNDERS OUT OF TOWN...





HOLD IT, GENTS!
AN' REACH!

WHAT IN
BLAZES?

IT'S THE LAW, DICK!
WE'D BETTER DO
WHAT HE SAYS!



THEY'RE THE
ONES, ALL RIGHT,
SHERIFF! I
RECOGNIZE
THAT ONE!

SO DO I! HAND
ME THOSE
SADDLEBAGS!



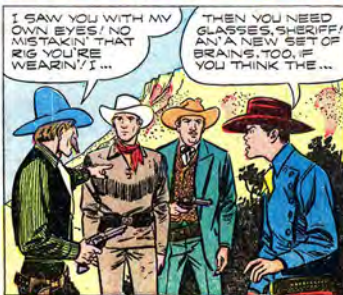
SO YOU ALREADY
STASHED THE
LOOT! LOT O' GOOD
IT'LL DO YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER
GET TO SPEND
IT!

I'D SURE
LIKE TO
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS ALL
ABOUT!



I SUPPOSE YOU AN'
YOUR PARD DON'T
HOLD UP THE RIO
TONDO BANK AN'
WOUND THE
CASHIER!

THAT'S
RIGHT! WE
DIDN'T!



I SAW YOU WITH MY
OWN EYES! NO
MISTAKIN' THAT
RIG YOU'RE
WEARIN'! I ...

THEN YOU NEED
GLASSES, SHERIFF!
AN' A NEW SET OF
BRAINS, TOO, IF
YOU THINK THE ...



IT'S NO USE, DICK! THEY'VE GOT US DEAD TO RIGHTS! BUT DON'T TELL THEM WHERE WE HID THE CASH!

WHAT?



THAT'S ALL WE NEED, BOYS! LET'S GO! I'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN THIS PAIR'S UNDER LOCK AND KEY!

LATER...



I FEEL LIKE A FOOL! ARRESTIN' THE RANGE RIDER FOR BANK ROBBERY! WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW ME THESE CREDENTIALS WHEN WE STOPPED YOU?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THE REAL BANDITS TO KNOW I'VE GOT ANY!



I'LL HAVE TO GIVE SOME REASON FOR LETTIN' YOU GO!

BUT WE'RE NOT LEAVING! WE'RE OCCUPYING YOUR BEST CELL TONIGHT! AND BE SURE EVERYBODY IN TOWN KNOWS WHICH ONE IT IS!



WHAT? SUPPOSE THAT CASHIER DIES? WE'RE LIABLE TO MEET JUDGE LYNCH, PRONTO!

DON'T WORRY, DICK! THE BANK ROBBER'S WON'T LET US GET STRUNG UP! WE'RE NO USE TO THEM DEAD!







IT'S HERE/ UP WITH YOUR HANDS!

THE SHERIFF!

AN' THE RANGE RIDER/WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!



I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D END UP WEARIN' A ROPE NECKTIE, DENMAN! BUT THE RANGE RIDER SAYS HE SAW YOU COMMIT A MURDER AN'...

HE'S LYIN'! I DON'T KILL PURVIS! I CAN PROVE IT!



YOU JUST PROVED YOU DID, MISTER! NOBODY EXCEPT THE SHERIFF, MY PARTNER, AND I KNEW HE WAS DEAD...EXCEPT HIS KILLER!



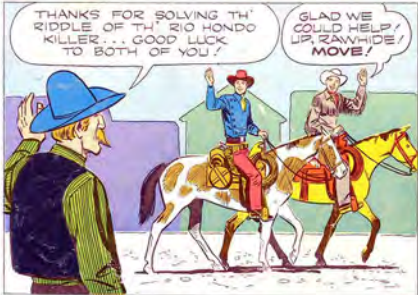
SUNRISE, THE NEXT MORNING...

IN SPITE O' HIS CONFESSION, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE EL ASESINO IS HARV DENMAN... A STOREKEEPER!

NO WONDER EL ASESINO KNEW WHO WAS CARRYING CASH WHERE AND WHEN!



WELL, SHERIFF, NOW THAT DENMAN AND HIS GANG ARE BEHIND BARS, DICK AND I WILL BE HITTING THE TRAIL AGAIN!



THANKS FOR SOLVING TH' RIDDLE OF TH' RIO HONDO KILLER... GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU!

GLAD WE COULD HELP! UP, RAWHIDE! MOVE!

AND SO, IN SEARCH OF NEW ADVENTURES, THE RANGE RIDER AND DICK RIDE AWAY...

